

THE WEEKLY CHRONICLE.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24, 1875.

FIELD AND FARM.

"THE DOG WARFARE."

Under the above caption, the *Monthly Report* of the Department of Agriculture, for January, contains a suggestive article, in which facts are presented that should arouse the people of the whole country to an appreciation of the folly of maintaining a herd of worthless dogs to destroy valuable flocks of sheep. Statistics are presented from 500 counties in 35 States, showing that in twelve months previous 79,485 sheep had been killed by dogs. This does not include the maimed or injured, and presents only a partial view of the discouraging picture. The direct loss sustained annually by the people of this country, in wool and mutton, arising from this cause, is not less than one million dollars. An indirect loss of even a larger amount is sustained.

A report is presented from 27 counties in Tennessee, in which there were 11,467 sheep killed within a year, distributed as follows:

Abes, 21; Coffey, 403; Giles, 1,750; Sullivan, 190; Perry, 500; Hancock, 109; Hardin, 190; Bradley, 20; Montgomery, 300; Jackson, 125; Haywood, 1,145; Smith, 150; Warren, 100; Monroe, 130; McMinn, 300; Carter, 70; Fentress, 107; Washington, 400; Wayne, 500; Robertson, 1,115; Sequatchie, 600; Decatur, 1,050; Dickson, 300; Lauderdale, 312; Union, 75; Sumner, 800; Morgan, 70; total, 11,467, number of sheep, 248,550.

Thus it will be seen that in these counties, more than four per cent. of all the sheep are annually destroyed by dogs. We have no doubt but that a full and accurate report from all the counties in the State will show a ratio of losses equally as large as that shown in the 27 counties above mentioned. And as an offset to this great loss, we have absolutely no gain whatever. The dogs are almost entirely worthless.

Yet we have never had a Legislature wise enough, or bold enough, to take hold of the question of protecting sheep by practical, vigorous legislation. At the last Legislature a law was passed giving the County Courts the power to tax dogs, but it has been done in very few, if in any single instance. In a Court composed of from forty to sixty justices of the Peace, there are always enough found who are afraid of the votes and influence of the dog-owners, to defeat any practical measure of this kind. In that way this fearful loss is saddled upon our best farmers, and they have no way of protecting themselves. Thus a most profitable branch of husbandry is left to suffer and to languish. Thus hundreds of thousands of dollars in capital are annually lost to our State, and the people are crying "hard times," while they seem to be blind to this loss.

We earnestly hope that our present Legislature will have the good sense and the courage to pass some act taxing the worthless dogs out of existence and protecting the sheep. We trust that the State Grange, now in session here, will take some action on the subject.

Those who have imagined that it would be easy to secure proper legislation to provide for a better system of public roads, will find themselves mistaken. The people of East Tennessee who are about a unit for better roads, must remember that Middle Tennessee has good turnpikes, and that West Tennessee has no material to make good roads. The interests of the three sections therefore are conflicting. We have wretched roads, but abundant material to make as good and cheap roads as make Switzerland famous. If we were a State by ourselves, we would have no trouble to legislate to meet our wants. We see no reason, however, why there should be trouble about it. The wants and demands of East Tennessee are so plain, that legislation can be devised that will meet our case and the wants of the other section, so far as they may choose to avail themselves of them.

But in the meantime let petitions go on to Nashville, to make our East Tennessee delegation a unit and zealous in the matter. We still have some blanks. We get letters daily, urging on the good work. What is wanted now is, in the word of a correspondent, "action." Let every county send its Representative instructions, and let the want be so impressed upon legislators, that it will be constantly before them and force them to act.

THE STATE GRANGE.

Its Sessions Held With Closed Doors
First Day—Wednesday, Feb. 17.

The sessions of the State Grange are held in secret, so we have no report of our own to make of its deliberations, but we are permitted to publish the following, which has been furnished us by one of the reporters:

The third annual meeting of the State Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry met pursuant to adjournment, in Staub's Opera House, and was called to order at 2 o'clock P. M. by Worthy Overseer J. M. Head, Worthy Master W. Maxwell, not being present. The roll of the delegates was called by Secretary, by Worthy Secretary J. H. Curry, when it appeared that twenty-three counties answered and the delegates presented their credentials, which were referred to the proper committee.

On motion of C. W. Charlton, John M. Meek, of Jefferson, and T. H. Reeves, of Washington, and John Randle were appointed reporters for the two daily papers of Knoxville and the *Union and American*, Nashville. Seventy-three delegates, three proxies and five lady members were reported by the Committee on Credentials, which report was received and adopted.

On motion of C. W. Charlton, alternates were allowed seats in the State Grange in lieu of their principals, who were absent.

On motion, the hour for the meeting of the State Grange was fixed at 9 o'clock in the morning, and 2 and 7 in the evening.

A resolution creating the usual committees was adopted, and they will be announced to-day.

On motion, adjourned to meet at 7 o'clock.

NIGHT SESSION.

The Grange met pursuant to adjournment.

An appeal was taken from the ruling of the chair, excluding all Patrons who were not delegates from participating in the proceedings, and the decision was not sustained; whereupon the Master invited all Masters and Past Masters, and their wives to seats in the Grange.

Mr. Hubbard moved that we hear the report of the Secretary; adopted. Report shows that 1,053 Granges have been organized in the State, and that \$11,000.00 had been paid into the Treasury of State Grange by the subordinate Granges, and that there are at present 36,000 Patrons in the State of Tennessee, and closed with a touching appeal to the members of the order to keep alive and perpetuate the cherished principles of the organization.

Mr. Hubbard moved that the report of the Treasurer be read, which was adopted.

The report showed that \$579 had been paid the Executive Committee of the State per diem and mileage, and \$1,200 to the Secretary for services and clerk hire. The report also showed the total receipts for the year to be \$12,733.41, and the total disbursements to be \$8,837.41, leaving a balance in the Treasury of \$3,896.00.

Mr. Charlton moved that the State Grange adjourn to give place to Prof. Linsley to-morrow night to deliver an address on the subject of Education. A division was called for and lost. The question recurring on the original motion and was carried.

On motion, adjourned till 9 o'clock this morning.

The following are the representatives present: Anderson county—W. S. Freels, Bedford, A. F. Rankin, Benton, L. Farmer, Bledsoe, R. K. Brown, Blount, S. E. Bell, Bradley, J. B. Hunt, Cannon, J. D. McGee, Carroll, J. P. Bromley and Mrs. Bromley, Carter, T. E. R. Hunter and L. E. Hunter, Cheatham, Wm. Shearom, Clay, J. K. P. Gililand and Mrs. Magle Gililand, Crockett, B. F. Boyd, Cooke, J. H. Morris, Coffey, G. W. Richardson and Mrs. Richardson, Davidson, J. H. Curry and Mrs. M. E. Curry, Decatur, J. H. Brown, DeKalb, J. P. Doss, Dickson, Samuel Spencer, Dyer, J. E. McCorkle and Mrs. T. A. McCorkle, Fayette, L. S. Freels, Bedford, A. F. Rankin, Benton, L. Farmer, Bledsoe, R. K. Brown, Blount, S. E. Bell, Bradley, J. B. Hunt, Cannon, J. D. McGee, Carroll, J. P. Bromley and Mrs. Bromley, Carter, T. E. R. Hunter and L. E. Hunter, Cheatham, Wm. Shearom, Clay, J. K. P. Gililand and Mrs. Magle Gililand, Crockett, B. F. Boyd, Cooke, J. H. Morris, Coffey, G. W. 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